

BAM

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

FEBRUARY, 1986

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

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- Prep Prospects
- Derrick McKey
- Wayne Davis
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FEBRUARY, 1986

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2

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Barry Fikes Photo



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More Of A Good Thing

by Chris Roberts

A long list of skill position
prep seniors from
Southeast



The 1986 season is right around the corner. Technically, it won't hit the football field until late August after spring training and the dog days of preseason work. But results of that other season—recruiting—will begin to be evident in a few days.

That season's homework began a long time ago. It continues through the signing period for high school senior football players beginning February 12.

The Alabama football staff—as every staff around—has been eyeing, evaluating and courting prospects for months.

This is the final of four articles in **'BAMA** reporting on many of the top prospects of the state and Southeast. The first two listed the best linemen and backs in Alabama. Last month named some of the most sought-after linemen in other states.

This month, rent a computer to keep track of the gridiron mileage, honors, etc. gained by these out-of-state backs and wide receivers.

As usual, remember that this isn't a comprehensive report of the players Alabama—or any school—is after and will sign. It's a list of some of the top prospects around the area based on reports from various publications, scouts and high school coaches.

Players are listed alphabetically by states.

FLORIDA

As usual, the Sunshine State has some favorite football sons who are the apple (or is that orange?) of recruiters' eyes. Leroy Butler, a 6-foot, 185-pound defensive back from Lee of Jacksonville, tops the list. He was named to one publication's "Top 12" list. And the "Sweet 16" of another. He can play.

David Davis played wide receiver and defensive back for Ft. Lauderdale. His incredible speed will help the school who catches him. He is 6-3, 175.

Although Apopka's Mike Lowman received most of his honors because of his work as a defensive back, he also looks natural with a football under his arm.

Orlando Sentinel Photo

Reggie Demps is another of Florida's "Sweet 16" as a 6-0, 187-pound running back from Orlando Oak Ridge. He earned 1,000 yards as a junior, and has the speed they want.

Jay Jackson, a 6-3, 180-pound defensive back from Tampa Plant, has definitely planted a few opposing runners in his career. He's got impressive credentials from a good prep football team.

Greg Jones is tough to keep up with. At 6-2, 180, he has lit up the scoreboard during his career as quarterback at Miami Edison.

Bruce LaSane has driven a few scouts crazy with his receiving potential. He is 6-4, 190 from Wildwood who also played defensive back while getting his team to the state finals during his career.

Ronald Lewis is a catcher and pitcher from Jacksonville Raines. He pitches baseball, but also catches passes as a 6-1, 175-pounder.

Charley Libretto has put the fear into a few opposing defensive coordinators. He is a 6-2, 185-pound strong-armed quarterback from Middleburg.

Tony Lomack can see his name on both "Top 12" and "Sweet 16" lists in the state as a 5-10, 180-pound running back and defensive back from Tallahassee Leon. He's a growing boy, too.

Mike Lowman has meant the death of a runner from his strong safety spot for Apopka. He is 6-0, 180, and also returned kicks and played fullback in his time.

George Moore is a top Florida player from Palm Bay, where he earned more than 1,000 yards during his seasons as a running back. He's 5-11, 185.

Greg Mulberry, at 6-3, 185, has made a few runners want to go around him. He played defensive back at Gainesville Bucholz, and will play it for a college soon.



Billy Ray

Atlanta Journal Photo

Browning Nagle owned the starting quarterback job as a senior at Pinellas Park, and the 6-4, 205-pounder didn't dissappoint. His size is an asset.

Vince Robinson is called "Florida's finest athlete" by one publication. He played quarterback and is 6-3, 210-pounder from Raines of Jacksonville. He also plays a mean game of basketball, just like his uncle, the NBA's Truck Robinson.

Stacy Simmons turned into one of the top backs in the nation, according to the All-USA second team list. He is 5-11, 175 from Dunedin and no doubt has the speed to burn defenses.

Reggie Slack isn't. He got the job done as a 6-1, 180-pound quarterback and defensive back from Milton.

Mike Smith played receiver at Gainesville Bucholz, but his defensive back skills have

earned look-sees from scouts. He is 6-3, 175.

Mitch Thames, a 6-1, 185-pound runner from Baker, isn't from a big school. But his speed and toughness will send him to a big college.

Alan Ward, the placekicker from Pensacola Escambia County, got his reputation from practice. At 6-0 and 175 pounds, he got his leg lifts with a team that averaged 30 points a game. He owns several Florida records for placekicking.

Walker Lee Watkins made his name with his legs. This 6-0, 178-pound "Sweet 16" selection is speedier than they come. He ran the ball at St. Thomas Aquinas of Ft. Lauderdale.

You can't tackle what you can't catch, and that's why Tracy Williams will play college football for a big-name school. He is a 6-2, 190-pounder who played running back at Sarasota.

GEORGIA

Randy Baldwin heads the peachy list of Georgia backs. He's a 5-foot-11, 195-pound running back from Griffin. A knee injury kept him from playing, but hasn't kept him from being a top prospect.

Felton Cook is a 6-2, 178-pound wide receiver from Palmetto who scored a touchdown a game during the regular season.

Stacey Danley is a 6-4, 195-pound defensive back from Macon Southwest. He earned his keep as a running back, but scouts want him on defense.

Mark Fletcher, at 6-4, 205, has the speed, skill and grades to be a nothing-but-awesome defensive back for a college. *USA Today* named him to the All-USA second team.

Mark Gamble held down Fort Oglethorpe of Lakeview this season. This quarterback is 6-2, 195.

Wesley Hardin has the height and arm

The Committed

The signing of high school senior football players to national letters-of-intent begins February 12, but a number of prep stars have already made their college intentions known. Although these public commitments are not binding, they are almost always upheld when schools begin passing out their scholarships.

The general consensus among those who purport to be experts in being able to predict which high school stars will continue to shine bright as college players is that Alabama is on the verge of an outstanding recruiting year.

Here are some who have publicly stated they intend to be Crimson Tiders:

Charlie Abrams, 6-4, 220, tight end-linebacker, Demopolis.

Danny Cash, 6-6, 275, offensive lineman, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Jeff Dunn, 6-2, 200, quarterback, Greensboro, North Carolina. (Page)

Byron Holdbrooks, 6-5, 285, lineman, Haleyville.

Gary Hollingsworth, 6-4, 165, quarterback, Hamilton.

Greg Kiker, 6-3, 260, lineman, Phenix City (Central).

Lee Ozmint, 6-5, 200, wide receiver-defensive back, Anderson, South Carolina (Hanna).

Trent Patterson, 6-0, 270, noseguard, Syracuse, New York (Henninger).

Lee Rockwell, 6-3, 205, linebacker, Fairhope.

Lamonde Russell, 6-1, 180, wide receiver, Oneonta.

Robert Stewart, 6-1, 242, fullback, Columbia (Houston County).

Glenn Watts, 6-4, 255, defensive lineman, South Plantation, Florida.

needed to be a college quarterback. At 6-5, 185, he scored his share of points in both football and basketball at Palmetto.

Robbie Kamerchen, a 6-1, 182-pound quarterback from Clarke Central, has high marks everywhere. He has a 4.0 grade point average, and completed better than 60 percent of his passes during the season.

William Kent, a 5-11, 197-pound running back from West Rome, has only grades to keep him away from a big school. If that is cleared up, then expect this 1,300 yards gainer to move to the big time.

Jake Martin, at 6-2, 195, set the standard at strong safety at Dunwoody. He earned the *USA Today* honor roll and DeKalb Player of the Week a half-dozen times. His father played at Georgia Tech.

Joe McClusky's brother David plays for Vince Dooley at Georgia. And Joe, a 6-2, 190-pounder from West Rome, averaged around 13 yards a carry as a running back. Grades are suspect, however.

Preston Poag punted, ran and threw as quarterback at Dalton High. He is a 6-3, 195-pounder.

Alfred Rawls is a 5-11, 185-pound running back from Wilcox County. He was named on *USA Today's* honorable mention team.

Billy Ray has a name to remember. Called "the nation's No. 1 prospect" by some, this 6-4, 200-pound quarterback ran and threw out of Dunwoody's veer offense into instant recruiter recognition. He's also a top student.

Felton Ransby is a 6-1, 177-pound quarterback from Columbia High of Decatur. He hit on half of his passes from a predominately pass-oriented team.

Dennis Wallace played quarterback at Central of Carrollton, a perennial playoff contender. At 6-3, 195, he has the brains to read the defense and the ability to do something about it.

John Wyche is a 6-4, 190-pound defensive back from Central of Thomasville. As a free safety, his hits have jarred the attention of some recruiters.

KENTUCKY

Al Baker is the brightest star in a not-so-bright recruiting crop in Kentucky. Almost all of the publications consulted had his name on their rolls. He is a 6-1, 225-pounder with 4.55 time in the 40. He played running back and punter for Cadiz Trigg County. He was a hero throughout his career, and even found time to win state track and powerlifting meets.

And say the same for Elliott Ditto. His 4.6 speed drew him recognition as a 6-2, 180-pound tailback from Meade County. He had five 200 yards-plus games as a junior.

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LOUISIANA

The eyes of recruiters are usually on Texas, Louisiana's next-door neighbor. But a large group of prospects may cause recruiters to move east. Derrick Douglas is one. He is a 5-10, 185-pound runner from Captain Shreve and one of the Top 30 in the state, says one source.

Eddie Fuller received attention as a 5-11, 195-pound running back from Leesville.

Sol Graves ranked as one of the Top 100 recruits in a four-state area that includes talent-loaded Texas. He is a 6-4, 202-pound quarterback from Ouachita Christian in Monroe. He has been clocked at 4.75 in the 40-yard dash.

Leroy Hoard ranked even higher on that list. He kept New Orleans' St. Augustine on the map as a 6-1, 205-pound running back who was hard to bring down. He has 4.5 time in the dash.

Tony Houston made it high on everyone's list as a 6-2, 180-pound wide receiver with 4.6 time from Ruston.

Brian Mitchell made a name for himself from the town of Plaquemine near Baton Rouge. He is a 5-11, 175-pound quarterback.



Leroy Hoard

New Orleans Times Picayune-States Item Photo

Derrick Saulsberry is one of the best backs in the state. Although only 5-10 and 180 pounds, his 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash makes him one to watch.

Deron Smith's size and speed will make some college the quarterback of the future.

At 6-6, 210 pounds with 4.6 speed from Des-
trahan, he earned all the accolades he's re-
ceiving. And the scholarship he's going to
get.

James Tony is a 6-0, 175-pound wide re-
ceiver from Archbishop Shaw in Gretna.

Leonard Valentine played quarterback at
John Ehret of New Orleans and was chosen
a *USA Today* honorable mention. He is 6-1,
190 pounds with 4.6 time in the 40.

MISSISSIPPI

Ricky Bradley leads the alphabetical hit
parade in Mississippi. He's a 6-1, 218-pound
running back from Bay Springs whose size
can create holes of its own.

Henry Coleman, a 6-3, 185-pound defen-
sive back from Louisville, is tall enough to see
the ball coming and fast and strong enough
to do something about it.

Chris Corrotero quarterbacked Starkville his
senior season. At 6-3 and 200 pounds with
4.7 speed in the 40-yard dash, he found his
picture on the cover of one recruiting hand-
book and on the most-wanted lists of some
recruiters.

David Fair is a 6-2, 220-pound running
back and a teammate of Corrotero's at Stark-

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ville. He helped the Yellow Jackets win the state his junior year, and reports say did the job again in 1985.

Willie Gayten gained more than 1,000 yards as a junior at Brookhaven. At 6-0, 200, his speed and power kept the Panthers afloat during his career.

Shawn Gregory racked heads as a defensive back at New Hope. He is 6-3 and 195 pounds.

John Mangum, a 5-11, 175-pound quarterback and defensive back from McGee, was noted as an All-USA honorable mention defensive back by *USA Today*.

Bobby Martin has been lauded by quite a few publications. He caught more than 1,000 yards in passes last season as a 6-4, 175-pound wide receiver from Laurel Northeast Jones.

Reginald Warnsley made his mark and yardage at Bay Springs next to Bradley. He is a 5-10, 210-pounder with the moves it takes.

Andra Williams is, simply put, one of the most sought-after running backs in the nation. His feats on the field and hype about his talent take too much room to begin. He is 6-0, 210, with 4.5 speed in the 40.



John Mangum

TENNESSEE

The recruiters are all volunteering to get the boys from Tennessee. In the backfield, Knoxville Central tailback Reggie Collins heads the list as a certified better-than-blue

chipper. He also plays defense. He is 6-foot-2, 205 pounds with 4.6 time in the 40-yard dash.

Donnie Collins was rated in the Top 35 of one Southeast recruiting publication. He is a 6-2, 190-pound free safety with 4.5 time from Knoxville's Gibbs.

Rob Hambright is a 6-2, 190-pound runner from Tyner of Chattanooga. He was a Class AAA All-star in 1984.

Johnny Jewell's ability as a receiver, along with his height and speed, have made him a gem to recruiters. He is a 6-3, 175-pounder with 4.6 speed from Battle Ground Academy in Franklin.

Vincent Moore was rated as the top quarterback in Tennessee by one source. He did his thing as a 5-11, 190-pounder from Hillcrest of Memphis. He also spent time as a defensive back. His 4.5 speed makes him attractive.

When Moore didn't throw the ball, he usually gave it to 6-0, 180-pound running back Greg Pollard. Pollard came on strong as a prospect late in his career.

And A Few Other Names

There is no question that Alabama's recruiting efforts are not being limited to the traditional recruiting areas of those states comprising the Southeastern Conference schools. Reports from numerous publications have linked Alabama with a several backs and wide receivers from other states. Among them are (alphabetically):

Jeff Dunn, the North Carolina Player of the Year from Page High of Greensboro, who has already committed to the Tide. He is 6-2, 200.

Donald Hollas, 6-3, 210, a quarterback from Lamar Consolidated High School in Rosenberg, Texas. He's ranked the ninth best prospect in talent-rich Texas.

Greg Lunde, 6-3, 200, a prep All-America defensive back from Chillicothe, Ohio.

Lee Ozmint, a 6-5, 200-pound wide receiver and defensive back from Hanna High in Anderson, South Carolina. The back of the year in South Carolina, he has committed to Alabama.

Lance Pavlas, a 6-2, 195-pound quarterback from Tomball High in Houston is an All-America and also has a 3.9 grade point average. He is the top-ranked player in Texas.

Chris Smith is a 6-2, 180-pound quarterback from Ponca City, Oklahoma.

David Winsley is a 5-8, 178-pound wide receiver from Flagstaff, Arizona.



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Getting More And More Respect

by Kirk McNair

Success in Tide basketball program starts with hard work at the top

Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson is now in his sixth season as leader of the Crimson Tide and his record ranks among the nation's best in that period. Nevertheless, for much of that time Sanderson has been the Rodney Dangerfield of Southeastern Conference basketball, getting far less respect than his performance deserves.

It probably starts with the name. Wimp was Wimp before there were wimps. And even with the negative connotation given that designation in recent years, Sanderson still prefers Wimp to his given name. He came into this world as Winfrey Worrell Sanderson on August 8, 1937, just a few months before the center jump after field goals was eliminated from the rules of basketball.

There's also his background. For 20 years Sanderson toiled as an Alabama assistant coach, first under Hayden Riley, then under C.M. Newton. When Newton retired following the 1980 season Bama didn't make a nationwide search for a big name coach. Tide Athletics Director Paul Bryant looked into the office next to Newton's and (following Newton's advice) elevated Sanderson to the position.

His public countenance—in stark contrast to the jolly demeanor he has away from basketball—is a public relations nightmare. Wimp has permanent nonlaugh lines as a result of his scowls at officials, frowns at adverse game vagaries, and mopes about schedule luck. We're talking a dour expression means he probably got up on the right side of the bed. He's the perfect example of the old line, "I'd be a pessimist, but I don't think it would work out." Those briefest of smiles after frequent Crimson Tide victories are followed quickly by worries of upcoming opponents, recruiting, ad nauseum.

Then there's the game. Basketball may be number two at Alabama, but it's a far distant second. Football has been Crimson Tide king for so long—and so successfully—that even



Alabama Head Basketball Coach Wimp Sanderson is actively involved in Tide games and he's sustained one of the nation's winningest programs.
Barry Fikes Photo

the greatest of Bama basketball teams will only occasionally fill 15,000-seat Memorial Coliseum. Generally speaking, Alabama basketball has been more highly regarded out of Alabama than in the state.

Basketball has always been number one with Sanderson. He grew up in Florence as what is now known as a "gym rat," playing the game daily, in pickup games if possible, but by himself if no one else was available. "I don't think anyone around there played more than I did," said Sanderson. "I liked to play and I liked to shoot. I'd slip in the gym when I could, but mostly I played in my aunt's backyard, where I put up a goal, and at the college. They played at the college every day." The college was Florence State Teachers College, later Florence State Uni-

versity and now the University of North Alabama.

Even as a youngster Sanderson was a worker. He got in his daily basketball around his jobs, as an apprentice electrician and on the graveyard shift at Reynolds Aluminum.

North Alabama was the hotbed of high school basketball in the state in those days and Sanderson was instrumental in Coffee High being one of the prep powers of the early 1950s. Hayden Riley, who would later bring Sanderson into the college ranks, was the coach at Coffee and he recognized the 6-1 Sanderson for his playing talents early. "I was playing on the B team in the 10th grade when Coach Riley brought me up to the varsity," Wimp remembers. "I played some and started one game, but I really wasn't a regular until the 11th grade." That team would make it to the state tournament, ousting two of the state's top squads along the way.

"To get to the tournament we had to win our district," said Sanderson. "T.M. Rogers was the best team in our area. They had already beaten us three times when we met them in the semifinals of the district. In those days if you completed two overtime periods still tied, you went to sudden death. That's what happened and I made a basket in sudden death. It was a highlight of my career, I guess." At the state tournament, played in The University's Foster Auditorium, Coffee beat Pell City, featuring future Bama quarterback Bobby Skelton, in the first round.

"Foster just had one clock in those days, so we planned to get to the gym real early the next day so that we could get the end of the court with the clock in the second half," Wimp remembered. "We got there early, but Carbon Hill had beaten us. They had the clock in the second half and knocked us out of the tournament." Ironically, when Sanderson's playing career ended he would become head coach at Carbon Hill, his only coaching year not spent at the college level.

While Sanderson was the hero in getting his team to the state tournament as a junior, he said he was the goat next year. "The next year I fouled a guy with 21 seconds to play and we lost in the district," he admitted.

Riley remembers Sanderson's high school playing primarily for Wimp's work habits. "He was a real hard worker, really a dedicated basketball player," said Riley. "And he was a good clutch shooter. He was captain of the team as a senior."

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Sanderson grew up as an Alabama basketball fan. "Johnny Dee (who coached Bama from 1953 through 1956 and whose 73.1 percent winning effort makes him the only Alabama coach who has recorded a better won-loss record than Sanderson) spoke at our senior banquet," said Wimp. "I really wanted to go to Alabama, but I wasn't good enough. Coach Dee offered me books, but I couldn't afford to go without a scholarship."

He took his talents west, to Abilene Christian College in Texas, but after one year was back at Florence State. He earned three letters playing in the gym where he had honed his game as a youngster and was elected captain in both his junior and senior seasons. After earning his degree in physical education he was off on his career.

Carbon Hill in Walker County is a relatively small high school, but it has had at least two Sandersons as head coaches who have gone on to be college head coaches. In 1959 Wimp coached the school to a 25-4 record and a spot in the state tournament. A quarter of a century later Wimp's oldest son, Jim would get his first head coaching job at the same school. Jim is now head coach at Faulkner State College.

Hayden Riley had gone to Alabama under Bryant as an assistant football and basketball coach in charge of all recruiting. Following the 1960 basketball season Dr. Eugene Lambert resigned as Bama's basketball coach to become director of athletics at Memphis State. Riley was elevated to head basketball coach. As a measure of how the emphasis on basketball has changed, Riley continued to be charged with duties in football scouting and recruiting and had no fulltime assistant in basketball. He was allowed to bring in one graduate assistant to help with the basketball program. (Alabama now has three fulltime assistant coaches and one graduate assistant coach.)

"Wimp's hard work as a basketball player for me at Florence was certainly an influence in my selection of him to be my graduate assistant," Riley said. "And he didn't let me down. He worked day and night. He was working on his masters degree and after he got it we worked it out to keep him as a full-time assistant. I guess he was the first fulltime assistant basketball coach in Alabama history."

"He was completely involved in the program. He was involved in recruiting, scouting and game preparation. He did a tremendous job in scouting."

Wimp and his wife, Annette, borrowed a truck and moved all their possessions to Tuscaloosa in the early summer of 1960. It is also

a measure of how the program has grown in that the Sandersons will soon move to a large, new home on the 10th fairway of the golf course at NorthRiver Yacht Club. Several moving vans will almost certainly be involved.

Another graduate assistant coach at Alabama would play a large role in Sanderson's career. During the 1964-65 season C.M. Newton joined Riley's staff as he worked on his doctorate degree. Following the 1968 season, Newton returned to Alabama as head basketball coach.

"When I came in for that graduate year was the first time I had met Wimp," said Newton, who has since come out of retirement as head coach at Vanderbilt. "He and Annette just took Evelyn and me in. We became very close." When Newton was offered the job as Alabama's head coach "I asked Wimp to help me immediately with the recruiting and give me some time to put the staff together, because I had never done that. And he did. We hit the road and really worked."

"When I did begin putting the staff together I asked Wimp to stay." The other members of that staff were Jock Sutherland, who later returned to Kentucky as a very successful high school coach, and a graduate assistant, John Bostick, who is now assistant head coach at Vanderbilt.

"I put Wimp in charge of recruiting," said Newton. "However, I've never been willing to have just a recruiter. There are several reasons for that. One, I think it's difficult for a man who is nothing but a recruiter to know what you need and effectively evaluate talent that will fit into your program. And, two, I think you penalize a person insofar as becoming a successful head coach if he's only done one thing."

"So although Wimp was in charge of our recruiting, and did a great job of it, he also taught and scouted and was involved in our game operation, just as John and others were."

Newton's decision to leave Alabama, he realized, would affect others besides himself. "My decision to make a career change could have affected the jobs of Wimp, John and Leroy (McClendon)," he said. "I felt that if one of them could succeed me, the transition might be more orderly if he kept the other assistants. I'm not sure how much a guy going out has to say about it, but I made my feelings known to Coach Bryant and Coach (Sam) Bailey. I felt Wimp deserved the job and should have it and I wanted him to have it. In addition to feeling he would keep the others, which was important to me, I sin-



Southeastern Conference basketball officials hear from Alabama Head Coach Wimp Sanderson on just about every trip down court, but Paul Galvan doesn't seem to be too upset with Sanderson's suggestion.

cerely believed he would do a great job of sustaining the program. And he has."

The Alabama job was not the first head coaching position Sanderson might have had. In his 20 years as an assistant coach there were five head jobs he seriously considered. "I already had a good job, so just being a head coach wasn't the most important thing in the world," said Sanderson. "I interviewed for five jobs. A couple I could have had, but decided I didn't want. I felt it was important to be in a program in which I had a chance to win.

"Since I was able to wait and get that kind of job here, in hindsight it's probably a good thing I didn't take another one."

Sanderson has never considered having a life out of basketball. "I enjoy it," he said. "I enjoy the association with the players and coaches and I enjoy the competition, even though I worry about the competition."

And Bama's head coach does well in the fast lane of Southeastern Conference basketball competition. He ranks among the leaders in all categories of winning among

SEC coaches with the exception of total victories, and that's because of his relatively short head coaching career. Going into this year he had a career record of 103-52, a 66.5 percent winning percentage. In SEC competition the mark was 57-43, a 57 percent winning effort.

Everyone who knows Sanderson's program credits his hard work for its success. Hayden Riley says "I would agree with the general assessment—Wimp's success is the result of hard work." C.M. Newton notes "It's tough to go up against Wimp's team. He does such a good job of preparing and coaching his team. I think he and I know each other because we were together so long, so the actual game part of it isn't so difficult. But if he didn't prepare his team so well I'd enjoy it a lot more."

Benny Dees was an assistant under Sanderson before landing the job as head coach at New Orleans prior to this season. "To work with Wimp is not bad at all," said Dees. "From the outside you see all that scowling, but that's not him. Now he is all business

about basketball, but you come to accept that. What makes Wimp Sanderson a success is that he is a tireless, tireless worker. He won't let up and he won't let his assistants let up and that's the way it ought to be. You don't mind that.

"Another thing is he is an outstanding basketball coach in a big game. You don't mind playing against a guy who thinks he's going to outsmart you. What you hate to go against is a coach who prepares. And I guarantee you Wimp Sanderson prepares his team."

Ask Sanderson the secret to his success and the first response is "I don't know how successful we've been." Pressed, though, and he'll admit "I work at it hard. I try to prepare." Then it's quickly to a complaint. "With the way the schedule is set up it's difficult to prepare properly. Three times we have games on Thursdays and Saturdays, which means we have four days to prepare for one team, but only one day to prepare for the second."

A call to Sanderson's secretary, Nancy Watts, to see if the head coach might be in his

office during lunch hour, brings a delightful response. "Heavens, yes," declares Ms. Watts. "It's basketball season, isn't it? No time to eat! Sleep with one eye open, one foot on the floor!" Although she's joking, the intensity of Sanderson the worker is no joke. Everyday is full speed ahead.

A major area of competition is in recruiting, and Sanderson notes that "the level of the competition in recruiting has increased in the years I've been here. It's not just in this state; it's throughout the league. It's a fight every year to maintain the level of talent to meet the expectations of your fans. Everyone has good recruiting budgets and good people out in the field working."

For a number of years Alabama owned the state, and particularly Birmingham. Through the 1970s Bama was able to land most of the top basketball players from the state prep ranks. That has become increasingly more difficult in recent years, particularly with Alabama-Birmingham attempting to have a major basketball program. "During that time we had to fight off a lot of out-of-state teams because we were in pretty good shape in beating Auburn for them," said Sanderson. "But regardless of the competition, it would not be so bad if we had big numbers in prospects. Take a state like Georgia with a large population base, and you can expect a proportionately large number of prospects. I would say that in Alabama there are probably—on average—five prospects per year. There are five or six Division I programs trying to recruit in this state, although three really have the best chance to recruit the top players. Compare that to the number of football prospects with only two schools having a real good chance at them.

"We've always had that basic numbers problem because of population, but before we had only two schools recruiting. I think we've held our own extremely well and I think we'll continue to hold our own."

It's difficult to discuss recruiting without discussion of recruiting violations. "I think college basketball has some problems in that area," said Sanderson. "I don't know the extent. Some say it isn't much, some say it's a lot. We have rules to go by and some people have demonstrated they will bend them or break them. It is the responsibility of the coaches to keep their programs as clean as possible.

"We had an instance this year in which we were accused of a violation by a photograph in a football program. I didn't feel it gave us a recruiting advantage. Certainly if I was going to do something illegal I wouldn't do it where hundreds of thousands of people

could see it. As it turned out, the controversy arising from that may have been a factor in us losing the prospect." The incident arose when an unidentified photograph of Sanderson with 7-0 Alan Ogg of Gardendale ran in a football program ad for Sanderson's summer basketball camp. News accounts called it a "possible NCAA violation." Alabama asked the NCAA for a determination, but before the NCAA responded Ogg signed with Alabama-Birmingham.

Sanderson calls this "an important recruiting year for us. I think we've already helped ourselves with our early signing and I think we're going to do well in the spring signing period. Our coaches are working hard. It's always a battle, but I think we'll come up with some good players.

"Among other things, we've got to get our numbers up. We've got 10 on scholarship and we graduate two. It's been difficult for us to prepare and it's been difficult for people to get better when we've got so few."

Alabama's early signee was 6-7 forward Michael Dizaar of Birmingham Carver. The Tide's ranks have thinned by four this year, sophomore Jimmy Smith and freshman John Brown leaving the team in early fall, freshman Cat Smith and senior Darrell Neal quitting in December.

With senior Buck Johnson finishing his career this year, Sanderson will have to fill the inside void with primarily new players. Over the years it has not been at all unusual for freshmen to see considerable playing time, even starting assignment, in the Crimson Tide program. That is a primary reason that Sanderson favors the freshman eligibility rule, but not the only one.

"There's no question in my mind that freshmen can play in the SEC and contribute," he said. "I know that the freshman year is tough on a lot of them. They've all been starters—in fact they've all been stars—and they come in and don't get to play as much as they'd like. We try to get them as much playing time as possible, but sometimes that's not much.

"There are pluses and minuses on this question. Personally I feel that the freshmen adjust better as members of the varsity than they did when we had freshman teams. They work with the upperclassmen every day and travel with them and learn from them—not just basketball, but how to get along in college.

"There has been a lot of focus on the new NCAA guidelines for college athletes. I think we have a particularly difficult time in basketball in that our season is over both semesters. So we have the problem of recruiting

eligible players, then keeping them progressing toward degrees over both semesters. And we probably miss more school for travel than any other sport.

"One of the best things Ray Perkins has done as athletics director is beef up our academics program. We have more fulltime and parttime counselors than just about any other school. And we also charter to all our away games during school so that we can get the players back right after our road games so they can get to class the next day.

"There are other considerations now, too. If you have a freshman team you have to have a freshman coach. You have to have a schedule, which means additional travel expense and new logistics problems. And with the women playing, it would be too much to have a freshman game, a women's game and a men's varsity game."

Sanderson's goal as Alabama's head basketball coach is to keep the program at its current level. That is, to win 20 or more games and have an opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament for the national championship.

"It is difficult to do even if you recruit well," said Sanderson. "There is parity in this league and in college basketball generally.

"We have a tendency in the SEC to chew one another up. Everyone picks up a lot of losses when league play begins, particularly on the road. That makes it difficult for our teams to get ranked and to keep near the top.

"And it's a lot more difficult in that we have an 18-game league schedule as compared to those league's with 14-game league schedules." There have been proposals from time-to-time that the SEC pare its schedule away from the double round robin. History says that if that happened, Alabama (and most other SEC teams) would pad its schedule with four sure wins. Almost certain not to be added to Bama's slate is Alabama-Birmingham. "We're not in the talking stages right now," says Sanderson, who also admits that he's not going to initiate any talks.

One aspect of SEC play the Tide head coach does like is the SEC Tournament. "I think it's done a lot of good for basketball," he said. "However, I don't like having it on one team's home court." This year the tournament is in Lexington. "One reason the coaches voted to put it in Rupp Arena is because we won the tournament when it was there before," said Sanderson. "There have been two tournaments on a team's home court and in neither case did that team win it. But I believe when we get to Lexington all the teams in Kentucky's bracket will be sorry we're there."



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Derrick McKey:

Filling A Big Hole

by Tommy Deas

He's getting bigger and better at an unlikely position

Derrick McKey couldn't help but notice that big hole. It was about 6-foot-9 and wide, very wide. Bobby Lee Hurt had filled it with about 240 pounds and when he finished his career at the University of Alabama, he left it in his wake. McKey realized someone would have to fill that hole in the middle for this year's Alabama basketball team.

As McKey watched Alabama recruiting and didn't notice any true candidates to fill the hole, he began to accept that he would be the one to do it. With that, freshman forward Derrick McKey grew into sophomore center Derrick McKey. He was never even officially notified.

"They recruited me telling me I would play three positions at forward (power, small and wing), like Terry Williams," McKey recalled. "I was hoping we'd get a center from recruiting or from a junior college.

"Most of the time we run two posts when we practice, and when we started practice (this season), most of the time they'd call me and Buck (Johnson) out. I wasn't really uncomfortable, but it's a little different from the position I had been playing."

The 6-9 was no problem for McKey, a height he makes easily. It was the width of the hole that gave him problems, and the 240 pounds. The first 200 came easily, but McKey is still working on that other 40. He is still also trying to master play under the basket, because he played on the wing in high school despite his size.

"I was 6-8 then, and I weighed about 176," McKey says. "I've grown, and I guess the weights and the training have done it. For a while Buck and (Tide point guard) Terry (Coner) and I were drinking food supplements, but we gave up on that.

Alabama's man in the middle this year is a far cry from the behemoths who have manned the center position for Bama over the past decade. Derrick McKey isn't a hulk, but his game includes other dimensions.

Barry Fikes Photo





"I know I've gotten stronger since high school and since last year. You have to be, because there's a lot more pushing and shoving. Sometimes a guy's a lot stronger than you, and you have to use your height and quickness.

"You get a lot of nicks and bruises, and you think about it sometimes, but you have to go out and play that kind of game in this league."

At Meridian High School in Mississippi, McKey averaged 18 points and almost 11 rebounds per game, but was only honorable mention when all-state selections were made. He didn't attend any major basketball camps, and was something of a sleeper as a recruit.

"I don't think I was very highly recruited," McKey says, "but it didn't bother me. I didn't go to BC Camp or Five Star or any of the major camps because I couldn't afford it, but my coach talked to a lot of people.

"It came down to Alabama, Ole Miss and Cincinnati. I felt like Alabama had Buck and Bobby Lee and they were known throughout the country, so I decided to come here. I wouldn't say I've always dreamed about playing college basketball, but I knew it was a great opportunity."

Upon arrival, though, McKey began making waves. In early practices the untested freshman showed his stuff by blocking shots by Hurt and Johnson, two proven all-stars. He played in all 33 games for the Tide as a freshman, and gained 10 starts. Though he averaged just five points and four rebounds in his first year, McKey served notice that he would have an impact.

In late January, he had a career-high 15 points at Florida, showing he could score when given the opportunity. "I just had the opportunity to take a few more shots," he says, "and some of the guys weren't having a good game, so I took them."

By the time the Tide got its fourth straight bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association championship basketball tournament, McKey had developed into a solid player. In the tournament, though, he became an unlikely hero.

In Alabama's first tournament game, a 50-41 win over Arizona, McKey's duties included trying to shut down the Wildcats' leading scorer, Eddie Smith. McKey played 27 minutes before fouling out with about six minutes left in the game, finishing with no points on 0-for-2 shooting with three rebounds.

It might not sound like much of a performance, but McKey also blocked two shots, held Smith to 2-of-11 shooting and only nine points, and had a big hand in holding the Wildcats to 29 percent shooting for the game by forcing altered shots with his imposing defense and shot-blocking ability.

In doing so, McKey became the first player ever to become a CBS-TV "Player of the Game" without scoring a point in the contest. The award came as a surprise for McKey, who did not know about it until Alabama Associate Sports Information Director J.D. Rutledge told him after the game.

"I was surprised and happy," McKey recalled. "I didn't even think about it. I figured they might give it to Bobby Lee or Buck. I didn't know about it, but right before the game was over with J.D. told me to hang around because the TV people wanted to talk to me.

"I thought we had a pretty good scouting report for that game, because I knew what he (Smith) was trying to do and I pretty much just tried to keep him from doing it."

McKey caught a few more eyes in Alabama's next NCAA tournament win, a 63-59 win over Virginia Commonwealth. He played in the middle of a 3-2 zone defense around the top of the key and kept VCU sharpshooters Rolando Lamb and Calvin Duncan from bombing away with the effectiveness they had become used to.

One who remembers the game is David Hobbs, an assistant coach who came to Alabama this season from VCU, where he had been an assistant for six years. He was impressed with McKey in the game.

"When you put him on the top of a zone like that, it makes it more difficult for a guy to see," Hobbs said. "It makes it tough, plus he's got pretty good quickness and it makes you play a lot more of the floor and spread your offense out.

"I thought he was a good player, especially being a freshman. He's got a really good chance of being a good player. If he's willing to do the things he needs to do, he can become a real good college player here and maybe even make a living for himself in basketball.

"He's a big guy who's got quickness, and that's a rare combination. He's also a quick jumper and he's got good timing, and I think his timing is one of the reasons he's blocked so many shots."

Derrick McKey ranks among the nation's top percentage shooters from the field, in part because he takes high percentage shots. His quickness to the basket gives him many close-in opportunities. Barry Fikes Photo



The blocked shot has become something of a trademark for McKey. He is the leading shot-blocker in the Southeastern Conference in the early-going this year. In Alabama's season-opening exhibition against *Athletes In Action*, McKey erased eight shots, though exhibition statistics don't count for the season.

"I just try to take my time and have good timing," McKey says of his blocks. "Sometimes, somebody else might be guarding a guy and he'll think he has a good shot one-on-one and I'll get over and block the shot. I try to block shots, and I try to make people take bad shots."

But this season McKey has had to do a lot more. As the starting center and one of only three inside players for Alabama, he has been called on to contribute more. He has responded early in the season by tossing in about 10 points per game and adding about seven rebounds, but he is quick to point out that he is still learning how to play center.

"We miss Bobby Lee, especially rebounding and everything," McKey says. "He did score, but I never saw him as a big threat scoring. I know now I have to do a lot more because there's only two big guys inside. I try to get good position to do whatever is needed."

"The opportunities come at different times. As the season goes on, I think I'll get better and better each game. It puts a little pressure on me, but it doesn't bother me."

In moving to center, McKey has had to make the transition from playing facing the basket to putting his back to the basket. He has also come to draw assignments to guard bigger and more physical players.

"I don't think he's had that much trouble," Hobbs says. "He can shoot well enough to play the three spot (on the wing) and he's big enough to play the other two."

"We work with all our inside people on offense. We're trying to develop a couple of different shots for him, a couple of moves, but I think he's still more comfortable facing the basket. It may give him trouble playing against bigger guys because he doesn't have the bulk, but he gives them problems because of his quickness."

That quickness is an advantage that McKey recognizes.

"A lot of times," he says, "with a big guy like (Louisiana State's) John Williams, you try to front him. If they miss a shot, he has real good position and you have to use your quickness to get around him."

"There's a whole lot of new things playing center. You have to be a lot more physical,

and there are some things you can't see when you're down low that you can see outside.

"I think maybe I can be more effective at another position, but playing the center position is where I have to play for the team to be successful. I think I have to take the slack off on the inside and try to score and rebound a little."

As a rebounder, McKey has had success with using his quickness to slide around bigger bodies for position, and by sending his spider-like frame into the air for flying grabs.

Scoring is another area that he is still developing. McKey has a range that extends out to 15 or 17 feet, and did much of his scoring as a freshman by taking long, silky shots over defenders from the wing. He also has a flair for scoring off the offensive boards when he can get the rebounds.

Still, he leaves much of that duty to Johnson, who has led the SEC in scoring through much of the year in developing into an All-America candidate.

"A lot of people just key on Buck, and that leaves me with a lot of opportunities," McKey said. "It doesn't bother me. He's All-SEC, All-America. He needs to take those shots and score for us to be a good team."

"Buck is a real scorer, and I don't think I'll take as many shots as he does, but there may be times when I'll have to. I really don't have to score that much, because I know that Buck can score and Jim (Farmer) can score and Terry can score. If the opportunity comes, I'll take it. I think it can be helpful when I do."

The opportunity to score is something McKey does look for. When he sees a good shot, he takes it—but when he doesn't, he will pass it up. While that may not go very far towards making him an imposing offensive force, McKey has become a very effective shooter who leaves little opportunity for anyone to rebound.

The reason is that he rarely misses. In one five-game stretch this season he hit an incredible 30-of-31 shots, and he was shooting over 70 percent through about the first third of the season.

"I don't take as many shots as some guys," McKey says with a shrug. "I hardly ever force a shot. I just take the easy ones, the tip-ins and stuff. A lot of times they are keying on Buck and it leaves me open for an easy shot."

It is with such casualness that McKey dismisses much of his potential and impact at Alabama. But he is beginning to attract the attention that marks a future star.

While he has yet to fully put together his whole game, McKey's versatility shows. He

may not have a big scoring game, but he almost always contributes in a big way. If he doesn't score, he will most likely get a healthy number of rebounds. If he doesn't control the boards, he'll probably toss in a few points when they're needed. Or he may do a little of both and also block two or three shots and affect the game with his defense. He is a hard player to shut down.

Witness a couple of Alabama's early SEC games this season:

In an overtime Tide win against Mississippi State in Starkville, McKey took over on the boards at the beginning of the second half. In the first several minutes of the half, he rebounded with a fervor on both ends and grabbed five rebounds in a short, crucial span to begin the second half. Late in regulation, after Mississippi State had taken the lead, he pulled up from 15 feet and canned a shot to tie the game.

At home against LSU in one of the biggest wins of the year, McKey played a big hand in handing the Tigers their first loss of the season. He skied to block four shots in the game, and rendered LSU's front line force of John Williams and Nikita Wilson well below par. Though he scored only two points, McKey pulled down eight rebounds and was largely responsible for Williams' 6-of-16 shooting performance.

Those may not be the things of which legends are born, but if and when McKey puts all of the dimensions of his game together he will likely be a stalwart for Alabama. After the Tide dropped a road game at Maryland early in the year, one Maryland player compared him in form and style to former Clemson and current National Basketball Association star Larry Nance.

"I don't think too much to compare myself to anyone," McKey says. "Some of the other guys in the league like Kenny Walker (of Kentucky) get a lot of publicity, but to me they aren't any different than anyone else. They may can do a lot of things, but to me they aren't any different. I don't mind not getting noticed too much."

Hobbs says that McKey can develop if he works on playing hard all of the time, adds a little strength to his wiry body and works hard in the offseason. For now, though, McKey is still concerned with filling that hole left by Hurt and helping the Tide in any way he can.

"I guess I can become as good as I want to be," he says, "or as hard as I work. If I do (become a star like Johnson or Walker), there's nothing wrong with that. It wouldn't bother me either way, if I do or I don't."

"All I want to do is help the team out, help the team accomplish something."

The Unknown All-Star

by Kirk McNair

Bama's outstanding
linebacker gets his rave
reviews from Tide
coaches



Wayne Davis

Prior to the 1985 football season the Southeastern Conference brought the coaches and leading players from each league team to Birmingham to meet the press. In addition to questioning the coaches and players, the members of the media were called on to vote on a preseason All-SEC team. Although Alabama Head Coach Ray Perkins, who was the last of the 10 coaches to address the gathering, had not yet presented his view of Bama's prospects to the press, the voting was completed just before he took the podium and Alabama placed twice as many players as any other team on the honor roll.

The voters named six Tiders to the preseason All-SEC team and the first question to Perkins was what he thought of that. He promptly ticked off seven names—Kerry Goode, Cornelius Bennett, Wes Neighbors, Jon Hand, Freddie Robinson, Curt Jarvis and Wayne Davis. Actually the press had picked placekicker Van Tiffin and had not selected Goode (who had missed all of the previous season) or Davis.

Goode missed most of the season again this year, but the other preseason choices of both Perkins and the media all received various honors. However, the best Wayne Davis could do was second team All-SEC. Does that mean Perkins was wrong to have listed Davis?

Maybe not.

Wayne Davis has a problem, but it's not in the way he plays football. It's where he plays

it. Davis came into the Crimson Tide program at the same time as Cornelius Bennett. Although Davis is an inside linebacker and Bennett an outside linebacker, that's enough to keep Davis off the all-star teams. It's very, very difficult for one team to have two linebackers make the honor squads, and because Bennett is considered one of the finest ever to play the game, Davis takes a back seat.

All Davis did last year was lead the Crimson Tide in tackles with 125 (60 primary, 65 assists), not including a team-high nine he added in the Aloha Bowl against Southern Cal. That was one and a half times the total of the runnerup, Davis' inside linebacker running mate Joe Godwin. He also had a quarterback sack, three other tackles behind the line of scrimmage, two pass interceptions, five passes broken up, and two fumbles caused. He had a 24-tackle performance in Bama's 23-10 win over eventual Southwest Conference and Cotton Bowl champion Texas A&M. Anyone wishing to find statistical justification for an all-star linebacker could do a lot worse than to take the numbers Wayne Davis provides.

And it's not as though he just emerged. As a freshman and sophomore he saw action in 10 games each year. He was in on 46 tackles as a freshman and was Southeastern Player of the Week for his performance against Ole Miss, in which he made nine tackles, intercepted a pass and broke up a pass. As a sophomore he was Bama's third leading tackler with 71 stops, including 12 against



Attributes such as size, strength and speed, not to mention intelligence and effort, make Wayne Davis an outstanding linebacker, but he's almost a secret to the outside world because he plays with Cornelius Bennett.

Auburn, 11 against Georgia and 10 against Penn State.

Wayne Davis is 6-3 and 217, but what really makes him big is the way he handles his seeming adversity.

"It really doesn't bother me that Cornelius gets the publicity," says Davis. "The thing that I look to is whether I'm satisfied I played as well as I can. I dwell on performance, not publicity. My credit comes from the coaches.

"Of course, Cornelius is a super athlete and he deserves the recognition he's gotten. I hope it continues for him. He has great God-given ability and he goes all out and uses it."

Bennett and Davis are good friends and the subject of Bennett receiving constant publicity, Davis being left in the shadows has come up between them. "No one wants any problems on the team," said Davis. "Cornelius has told me that he knows what I mean to the team and that means as much to me as all-star recognition. And he knows that I'm not jealous of him.

"I hear sometimes that I'm underrated, so to speak. That's nothing new to me. At Gordo High School we had a great running back, Dante Knox, who got all the publicity. It didn't bother me then and it doesn't bother me now.

"You know who I think is underrated? Curt Jarvis. I think he's the best nose guard in the country. He's the best I've ever seen."

In Alabama's football vernacular Davis is the Jack linebacker, which means he is the inside linebacker on the weak side (usually the side with no tight end). The other inside linebacker is the Mike linebacker. Davis is in love with his position. "That's the place to make the tackles," he says. And the reason for that? "The reason I made all those tackles is Jon Hand, Curt Jarvis, Brent Sowell and Larry Roberts," he said. "You get those guys laying on people and it makes my job easy. They did what the coaches asked them to do and they did it 100 percent fullspeed and fulltime."

Nevertheless, Davis has to have more than just a little ability himself to account for his 1985 performance. He was Bama's leading tackler in nine of 12 games with double digit performances against Georgia (13), Texas A&M (24), Tennessee (11), Memphis State (10), LSU (14) and Southern Miss (11). His position coach and defensive coordinator, Joe Kines, calls Davis "a good, solid football player. He made steady progress from the first day of spring training last year. He's the type who works hard to get better every day."

Davis says only six days a week. "From Monday through Friday night I try to get mentally prepared for the game," he said. "I watch a lot of film and I go over the scouting report regularly. Then when the game kicks off I try to give 100 percent. I may make a mistake, but I want it to be a fullspeed mistake. I really think that if a player works intelligently all through the week to prepare for the game and then plays the way he's practiced, he won't make many mistakes."

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Davis does like the physical part of football. He received all-state mention for his basketball play while at Gordo, but really likes the sport only as a spectator. "I go to the games here, but I wouldn't want to play basketball," he said. "What I couldn't stand about basketball was getting five fouls and having to sit down. In football I can make all the contact I want to. There's nothing like football."

He also thinks fullspeed effort was a team attribute during the year. "We went out to make the game as physical as possible," he said. "We want to take it to them. As Coach Kines says, we want to make it a street fight."

"Another thing we had was a whole lot of guys who really cared about each other, and I think you have to have that in a team sport."

He's convinced that Alabama is "on an upward march. I think we've got guys coming back with a lot of experience on offense and defense and guys who showed on the kicking teams that they want to play. I think the offseason program we're going through has us on the verge of being a fine team. Mental and physical toughness from now through the opener next fall will be the key."

At the same time he thinks that next year poses some big problems. "For one thing, opening against Ohio State gives us the toughest schedule in the nation, probably. It was already pretty tough. And we've got a major concern about our defensive line. We've got potentially good people to play those tackle spots, but everyone knows that we're going to miss Brent Sowell and Larry Roberts on one side and big Jon on the other. I do think we'll have some quick people playing in there and that might overcome that loss of strength. And it looks like we're going to have a good recruiting year, too."

What Alabama needs is a recruiting year like the one that included Wayne Davis. Although he grew up wanting to play for Alabama, he almost chose Auburn. "I was recruited by Coach Larry Blakeney, who is from Gordo, and I have a lot of respect for him. I decided early that I was going either to Alabama or Auburn and my first decision was Auburn," he said. "But I made a visit to Alabama and thought that if I went to Auburn, deep down I would always be wishing I was at Alabama. All my life I had wanted to play for Coach Bryant and Alabama. Of course I didn't get the chance to play for Coach Bryant, but I was recruited by Coach (Sylvester) Croom and he's the type person that anyone would respect. I couldn't have chosen a better place in the world than right where I am."

It's hard to believe that Davis will be suiting up for his final Alabama season next fall. "It seems like just yesterday when I got here and now I'll be a senior," said Davis. "Time flies when you're having fun." Davis has an easy smile and full laugh, and when he said that he laughed. "It's not always fun," he explained. "I'm not going to tell you that I didn't think about going home sometimes." Then he laughs again. "But there's nothing at home but a pulpwood truck and I've had all that I need."

Davis learned some lessons growing up in Gordo. "I learned a lot from my dad, but what I appreciate most is learning to work hard," he said. "A man who works hard will be all right." Wayne wasn't kidding about that pulpwood truck. Although Hayes Davis Sr. makes a daily half hour drive from Gordo to work at B.F. Goodrich in Tuscaloosa, he also does some pulpwooding on the side. "I guess I was in the third grade the first time I went into the woods," said Davis. "I don't think it was even legal, but I wanted to go so bad he took me. I wanted to go the first time, that is," he said, and laughed again.

Davis is a physical education major who hopes to be a coach someday. "The college life has been good to me," he said. "I think it's good for any young man or young woman." That even includes the offseason program, which he is in now. "It's tough, but that's the way it's supposed to be," he said.

Davis came to Alabama as a 200-pounder. Gordo High School had a weight program, but nothing compared to the second-to-none facility Bama offers its players. "I really like the weights," said Davis. "I'm hoping the off-season program will make me more solid, stronger and quicker before spring training." That's a tall order. First of all, he couldn't be much more solid. There's no sign of a spare ounce on him. "Well, that's just part of stronger," he admitted. He also couldn't be much stronger or much quicker. Being able to run a 4.6 40 is of no little help in running down the enemy. "I'd like to get it to 4.59," he said. And he doesn't want to be any bigger. "I got up to 230 last spring, but I felt too slow," Davis said. "I like to play between 215 and 220," which is exactly where he is.

Next season will be Davis' last for Bama, but no one expects it to be the end of his career. "The good Lord willing and if I stay healthy I'd love to play a little longer," said Davis. His favorite professional team is Miami—and was before Mike Shula was his teammate—but he also likes Tampa Bay "even though they don't win much." He'll go wherever he has to to play, but he admits a warm climate suits him.

Netters Have Confidence

by Lisa Dickerson

Although the Tide is young, there is more quality in the women's tennis program

The success of Alabama's women's tennis team under second-year Head Coach Karin Gaiser provides high hopes for this spring's schedule. A challenging fall schedule saw Bama's netters turning in outstanding performances in the Lady Cardinal Invitational, the Georgia Tech Invitational, against Memphis State, and in Bama's own Roberta Alison Southern Intercollegiate Championships.

In the Lady Cardinal the Tide got victories from Linda Mohlman and Kelly Davidson at five and six singles, while the number three doubles team of Kristin Broad and Kay Thayer reached the finals. Bama took eight of nine possible matches at the Georgia Tech Invitational and won all six singles matches (doubles were cancelled) against Memphis State.

Alabama took its own tournament against the likes of Auburn, LSU, Mississippi State and Wake Forest as the Tide was represented in the finals of six of nine matches. Broad at number four and Mohlman at number five and the combination of Broad and Thayer at three doubles were victorious.

Bama's success was rewarded when number one player Dennee Fitzmorris, number two Inge Cuppers and Thayer as alternate were invited to participate in the prestigious ITCA Southern Regional Tournament.

The Southeastern Conference is among the nation's best in women's tennis, but Alabama is approaching the spring challenge with confidence.

Gaiser said "The fall was indicative of the type of tennis program that will represent The University in the future. Last year was a transition period because of the new system I had introduced. Now we're beginning to enjoy the benefits of that hard work."

While Bama has six experienced players returning this year, three quality freshmen have moved strongly into contention. Broad is at number four singles and three doubles, Kelly Davidson at number six singles and number one doubles, and Thayer number three singles and doubles.

"The overall team confidence and anticipation is higher this year," Gaiser said. "A lot of that is due to the way the freshmen are competing. That is encouraging to see them pushing the older players."

Returning players include former high school teammates juniors Dennee Fitzmorris Shipley (number one singles and doubles) and Patti Farmer (number two doubles); seniors Cuppers (two singles), Mohlman (five singles) and Valerie Vining (two doubles); and sophomore Linda Boedecker. Walkon freshmen Theresa McKeown and Layla Destaffurey round out the roster.

Gaiser notes that depth is a strength, but that the relative youth of the team might be a weakness.

"Unlike last year when we were constantly looking and searching for a competitive lineup, this year it's a dogfight to play," the coach said. "There isn't much difference between our number one and our number six player. On a given day number six could beat number one."

A difficult schedule is expected to further upgrade the program. Bama takes on SEC powers Florida, Georgia and LSU and will also play in the Spring Fest at Hilton Head and the Lady Cougar in Houston, both quality tournaments.

Gaiser is assisted by first year assistants Susan Carver (a former player completing her degree) and graduate assistant Theo Karamallikis.



Kay Thayer is one of the outstanding young players competing for playing time on this year's Alabama women's tennis team.

University of Alabama Photo

Andrews Was The Exception

by I.J. Rosenberg

Bama had only one basketball All-America in the 1960s

Although the decade of the 1960s was not a good one for University of Alabama basketball, the Crimson Tide did produce one All-America performer. While Bama had no conference championships or post season tournament invitations—indeed, had only four winning seasons—6-5 center Bob Andrews was a standout.

Basketball was not the only area in which Andrews stood tall. After earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics he stayed on at Alabama as a graduate assistant coach and received his master's degree. He followed that with a graduate assistant coaching job at Virginia Tech, where he earned his doctorate. He is now a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I wasn't highly recruited out of high school (in Bridgeport, Illinois) because I hurt myself my senior year and missed half the season," Andrews remembers. "Also, I was just a 6-5 center. The only schools to recruit me in the SEC were Alabama and Vanderbilt. The reason I chose Alabama was two of my (high school) teammates had gone there."

Freshmen were not eligible for varsity competition in those days and so Andrews spent the 1962 season on the Alabama fresh-

man team. "The funny thing was that during my career at Alabama, the best team I played on was our freshman team," said Andrews. "I think we lost only two or three games that year. We really had a super team."

In 1963 Andrews moved up to the varsity and he still remembers his first game. "I was real nervous when I went in," he said. "After a few minutes I began to feel better and I finally got up enough guts to take my first shot. It was from the corner and the ball went right over the backboard. It was still rising when it went over the backboard. I was very embarrassed."

That proved to be one of the few times Andrews had reason to be embarrassed about his performance. As a sophomore he became the best player on Alabama's team, averaging 15.6 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. He was named to the All-Southeastern Conference third team.

Hayden Riley, head coach of the Tide during Andrews' career, said Andrews was one of the best sophomores in the league in 1963. After Andrews scored 29 points in a win against Georgia, Riley noted "It's the first time since I've been here that we've had a center who could score for us. For his size he is a fine rebounder and a tremendous defen-

sive player. If we had anyone bigger we could play him at forward."

The 1963 team won 14 games and lost 11, but four of those losses came in overtime in a five-loss stretch that decimated what appeared was going to be a fine record. Bama was 10-3 when the losing streak began.

"It was a real shame that year because we should have won those overtime games," said Andrews. "What's funny is we did win one overtime game—the one I fouled out of in regulation time. The other four I played. Maybe that says something about my playing in the clutch." Andrews is the only one who would suggest that his presence in the lineup was detrimental to Bama's winning chances.

The 1964 Alabama team was the first of Riley's squads to hand back-to-back losses to Kentucky and Tennessee. "Tennessee and Kentucky were always the two teams to beat in the conference," said Andrews. "It was especially thrilling to beat the Wildcats because they were coached by Adolph Rupp. In fact, in my three years on the varsity we played Kentucky four times and beat them twice."

Alabama again had a winning season in 1964, a 14-12 mark, and Andrews averaged 14.5 points and 8.6 rebounds.

In 1965 Andrews averaged 19.7 points and 9.0 rebounds per game and earned All-America recognition from the Helms Foundation. His play propelled Bama to a 17-9 record, the best Crimson Tide mark a team would have under Riley.

The season included Andrews' career best scoring night. Against Tulane in a 108-81 Alabama victory Andrews hit 16 of 25 field goal attempts and 14 of 15 free throws for 46 points, third most by an Alabama player in Crimson Tide history.

"Other than scoring the most points in my

BOB ANDREWS

Bridgeport, Illinois • 6-5, 200, Center • 3VL, 1963-64-65

YEAR	G	FG-FGA	PCT	FT-FTA	PCT	REB	AVG	PTS	AVG
1963	25	135-251	.538	123-158	.779	204	8.1	393	15.7
1964	24	106-258	.412	135-189	.714	207	8.6	347	14.5
1965	26	159-320	.497	183-234	.779	235	9.0	501	19.3
TOTALS	75	400-829	.483	441-581	.759	646	8.6	1241	16.5

life against Tulane, the thing I remember most is them having a seven-foot center," said Andrews of the game. "He wasn't that good, but I remember that I had to use my hook shot a lot. I also remember putting up a shot that I thought sure was going in, when out of nowhere came his long arm to block it away."

Andrews had some other big scoring nights—35 against Ole Miss and 31 against Florida State—that senior season. He went on to score 501 points, one of only 20 players in Crimson Tide history to score 500 or more points in a year.

That 1965 team duplicated the 1964 squad's achievement of beating Tennessee and Kentucky back-to-back in Foster Auditorium. Nevertheless, the conference record was a somewhat disappointing 9-7, good for only sixth place in the SEC.

"I think one of the reasons we didn't do so well back then was because of the racial situation," said Andrews. "We were an all-white team. Coach Riley was not able to go out and recruit black players. Now look at Alabama—or almost any other good team—and you'll see they are predominantly black. It wasn't Coach Riley's fault. That's just the way things were."

Andrews finished his career with 1,241 points (a 16.5 points per game average) and 646 rebounds (8.6 per game). Even though he had only three varsity seasons, those marks still rank 14th on all-time Alabama career lists.

Following his playing career he elected to return to Alabama to earn his master's degree. The choices then were basically college or the Army and Andrews wanted to be sure to get his graduate degree. "My responsibilities as a coach that year were restricted almost completely to coaching the freshmen," he said.

Although he had earned All-America honors as a senior, Andrews did not seriously consider a professional playing career. "I had to be realistic," he said. "You can't be 6-5 and play center in the NBA. I would have had to change to guard. I might have been able to play a couple of years in the Eastern League (a minor league of pro basketball), but there were no assurances."

In 1968 Andrews headed to Virginia Tech to continue his education. While earning his doctorate he also continued as a graduate assistant coach under Gobblers Head Coach Don DeVoe, now head coach at Tennessee. An assistant on DeVoe's staff was Sonny Smith, now head coach at Auburn.

"It was a great experience at Tech," said Andrews. "We won the National Invitation Tournament in 1973. I learned a lot about



Bob Andrews was a three-year starter and Bama's most outstanding player throughout his career in the mid-1960s. As a senior he earned All-America honors.

University of Alabama Photo

coaching from DeVoe. I also became good friends with Sonny." The NIT championship was a considerable achievement in 1973 because at that time the NCAA Tournament was limited to 16 teams, with the next 16 best playing in the NIT.

The next season Andrews went to France, where he coached a professional team in LeMans for three years. After a brief stint in

the hardware business in Cincinnati he began his teaching career at Virginia Commonwealth.

Although the thought of coaching occasionally passes through his mind, he doesn't give it serious consideration. "If I did I would have to begin back at the assistant level," he said. "And I don't think I'd like to get back into all that travel now that I have a family."

BAMA SCORECARD

The Schedule

Although Alabama Athletics Director and Head Football Coach Ray Perkins does not plan to announce the exact sites of Bama's eight 1986 home football games for a few weeks, it is likely that four games each will be played in Birmingham's Legion Field and Tuscaloosa's Bryant-Denny Stadium. The four Birmingham games are expected to come from five opponents—the home opener against Southern Miss on September 13, Notre Dame October 4, Penn State October 25, LSU November 8 and Auburn November 29. The Auburn game, of course, is contracted for Birmingham.

There had been speculation that Notre Dame might be moved to the season opener for television, but if Alabama is in the Kickoff Classic that would be less likely—and certainly not on Labor Day.

The Tuscaloosa games are expected to be Vanderbilt September 27, Memphis State October 11 and Temple November 15. Temple has replaced Cincinnati, which had a schedule conflict.

Perkins said he knew nothing of a report from Memphis that Memphis State also had a schedule conflict, a game with Louisville on the same date as the Bama game.

Bama's road games were expected to include the Kickoff Classic from Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, against Ohio State Thursday, August 28, as well as Florida in Gainesville September 20; Tennessee in Knoxville October 18; and Mississippi State in Starkville November 1.

Florida has juggled its schedule in order to have an open date prior to its meeting with Bama. The Gators moved their September 13 game against Georgia Southern (a Division 1-AA team) to the season opener August 30.

Spring Game

Alabama's spring football game will be Saturday, April 19. Last year's A-Day game featured the Tide varsity against an alumni team. That format will be ongoing, but played only about every four years. That schedule gives every varsity player a chance to play in one such game, and also gives the alumni players time to forget the bruises. Bama Head Coach Ray Perkins said there are no wrinkles planned for this year's game "unless we can interest enough members of the press to play against our team." Don't look for that one.

Last year Perkins began spring drills prior to The University's spring break. He wasn't satisfied that carryover from the drills prior to the break offset the advantage of players being able to recuperate from minor injuries during the week off, so this year's spring practice will begin the day players return from the break, Monday, March 17.

Bama is expected to continue the spring

practice format of not having tough work days back-to-back. Although the Tide suffered several serious injuries during spring training, there were fewer days missed due to minor nicks with the recuperation days worked in and the general feeling was that Alabama got a lot out of 1985 drills.

A number of Tiders who were injured either last spring or during the fall are question marks for this spring. Final decisions on the amount of work each will receive this spring will not be made until just before drills begin. Among those suffering knee injuries last spring were defensive tackle Bill Jordan, offensive guard Butch Lewis (who played in a limited role as a snapper on placekicks in 1985), noseguard Cliff Thomas and wide receiver Darryl Thomas. Strong tackle Gary Otten suffered a knee injury and freshman offensive lineman Waymon McGriff a broken ankle in preseason drills last fall. During the season tailback Kerry Goode, outside linebacker Randy Rockwell and outside linebacker Lydell Mitchell suffered knee injuries.

In Other Sports

Four Bama football players are expected to miss spring training in order to participate in other sports. Defensive back Shannon Felder is with the Tide baseball team. He's an outfielder who has impressed Tide coaches with his speed and power. Wide receivers Al Bell and Greg Richardson and defensive back Todd Richardson are with the track team, as is wide receiver Joe Smith, who has completed his football eligibility. Smith was a top hurdler for the Tide last year. The others are sprinters.

Lettermen

Alabama will have 45 lettermen from the 1985 season and seven others who lettered in previous seasons back this year. Twelve seniors were also among this year's lettermen.

Senior lettermen were Hardy Walker, David Gilmer, John McIntosh, Rob Roberts, Thornton Chandler, Joe Smith, Craig Turner, Don Horstead, Todd Roper, Jon Hand, Brent Sowell and Larry Roberts.

Junior lettermen included Hoss Johnson, Wes Neighbors, Al Bell, Greg Richardson, Chester Braggs, Mike Shula, Vernon Wilkinson, Freddie Robinson, Shon Lee, Wayne Davis, Joe Godwin, Cornelius Bennett, Darin Whitlock, Ricky Thomas, Curt Jarvis, Derrick Slaughter, Britton Cooper, Desmond Holoman and Van Tiffin.

Sophomores are Bill Condon, Clay Whitehurst, Mike Bobo, Doug Allen, Rory Turner, Randy Rockwell, Lydell Mitchell, Bo Wright, Shannon Felder, Craig Epps, Larry Abney and Butch Lewis.

Freshmen are Larry Rose, Joe King, Howard Cross, Gene Jelks, Bobby Humphrey,

Derrick Thomas, Tommy Cole, Anthony Smith, Willie Ryles, Kermit Kendrick, Steve Wilson, Willie Shephard, Greg Gilbert and Chris Mohr. (Cole, Wilson, Shephard and Mohr were redshirted freshmen, the others true freshmen.)

Letter winners in previous seasons returning are Philip Brown, Venson Elder, Kerry Goode, Gary Otten, Greg Payne, Vince Sutton and Cliff Thomas.

Man Of The Year

For the second consecutive year the National Football League Man of the Year is a former Crimson Tider. Dwight Stephenson of the Miami Dolphins was the 1985 winner of the title. The Man of the Year is selected on the basis of community work. Marty Lyons, another former Bama star, was the 1984 honoree.

Baseball Predictions

Alabama has been ranked 16th in the nation in a preseason college baseball poll by ESPN and *Collegiate Baseball*. Other Southeastern Conference teams ranked in the nation's top 20 were LSU 17th and Florida 20th.

Another baseball publication, *Baseball America*, didn't rank Bama in its preseason poll, but did select Crimson Tide junior catcher Doug Duke on its preseason All-America team.

Round Robin

Southeastern Conference baseball is no longer by divisions. This year each team is scheduled to play the other nine teams in three-game series. This year Bama has five home series, four road series. Next year those series will be reversed.

Bama also has four other games with SEC opponents which will not count in league standings, a two-game series with Kentucky in Tuscaloosa and single games with Auburn in Dothan and Huntsville.

Television Coverage

WDBB-TV of Tuscaloosa, which also serves much of the Birmingham area, plans television coverage of four Alabama baseball games this spring—either the March 9 game against Florida or the March 23 game against LSU, the April 7 exhibition game against the Birmingham Barons, the April 20 game against Auburn and the May 4 contest against Mississippi State.

Travel Down

College baseball players and golfers have traditionally been the most traveled of athletes, thereby missing the most school days. In an effort to reduce missed class time new rules restrict the number of travel days in those sports. Golfers are now limited to 30

travel days, baseball to 22. (Of course, those are not all missed school days since much of the competition is on weekends.)

Winningest Coach

Don Gambril has become the winningest coach in Alabama men's swimming history this year. Gambril, now in his 13th year at Alabama, has a dual meet record of 127-17 through January.

Aloha

Alabama swimmer Don Berger, who earned a trip to Hawaii to train with the United States National Team, also earned an early trip home. Berger was given permission to attend the Aloha Bowl football game featuring Alabama against Southern Cal, but was told to leave at halftime in order to make workout. At the half Bama and Southern Cal were tied 7-7 and Berger, who had not missed a home Alabama game in his four years at The Capstone, wasn't about to leave. He watched the Tide paste the Trojans in the second half, then returned to workout. Only instead of a workout he got an airplane ticket home.

Alabama Head Swimming Coach Don Gambril, who ranks among the Tide's biggest football fans, was understanding.

Peter Berndt, another Tide swimmer, also trained with the United States team in Hawaii, even though the East German defector is not an American citizen and not eligible to compete with the team. He missed the football game and completed his training.

Swim Qualifiers

Although Bama swimmers traditionally do not make qualifying times for the NCAA Championships until late in the season, one man and four women have already made those cuts. Mike Davidson has qualified in the mile, Laurence Bensimon in the 500, Charlotte Brock in both 100 and 200 breaststroke, Carole Brook in 200 butterfly and Katrina Bomstaad in 200 individual medley. The Bama women's 400-yard medley relay team has also qualified.

Divers qualify for regional competition and earn their way from there to the NCAA championships. Divers qualifying for the regions are Mike Marmann and Perry White in both one and three meter and Marcus Lourenco in three meter for the men and Jamie Silverman and Kathy Bruner in one meter for the women.

New Tiders

Alabama has added two new swimmers and four new track and field performers with January signings.

In swimming, Bama has picked up Mark Nieuwenhuis, a sprint freestyler from Bevering, South Africa, to the men's team and

Pernille Nimb of Denmark, a freestyler to the women's team. Nieuwenhuis is competing in short course for the first time, but holds several South African age group records at long course—including one formerly held by ex-Tide great Jonty Skinner. Nimb, who has trained at Mission Viejo, California, for the past two years is world ranked in the 800 and won the silver medal in that event at last summer's European Championships.

It didn't take new trackman Keith Talley of Indianapolis, Indiana, long to make an impact. In the LSU Invitational Talley, a junior college transfer, broke Henry Orum's long-time school record with a 25-8 winning performance in the long jump. He is also a high hurdler.

Other new track and field performers are junior transfers Sylvester Davis of Clinton, Maryland, a quarter-miler and intermediate hurdler, and Dave Reid, a sub-four minute miler from Montreal, Canada, for the men's team, and discus specialist Anna Ostenberg of Perstorp, Sweden, for the women's team.

Bama probably had an advantage in landing Anna since her brother, Martin, is a second year graduate assistant coach under Head Coach John Mitchell. She is Swedish national champion.

Basketball Signee

Coach Lois Myers signed Julie Ann Beatty, a 5-7 guard from Henegar High School, in the early basketball signing period. Julie Ann plays for her mother/coach Joyce Beatty and was last year's state 3A player of the year and state tournament most valuable player. In her first three prep seasons she has averaged 23 points and nine assists per game.

Track Qualifiers

Four women and one man have qualified for the NCAA Championships in indoor track and field.

Evelyn Adiru has qualified in the 1,000, Pauline Davis in the 60, Flora Hyacinth in the long jump and Liz Lynch in the mile. Keith Talley has qualified in the long jump and 60 high hurdles.

All four women have set school records in those events this year. Hyacinth also has the school record in the 60-yard hurdles, but has not yet qualified for NCAAAs. Lillie Leatherwood, who set an NCAA record in winning the 440, won't have to defend that title. The event has been taken out of the NCAA championships. She will have to qualify at 500 yards for this year's meet.

Another Honor

A headline in the sports section of the Orangeburg, South Carolina, *Times and Democrat* on December 8:

Crimson Tide's Bo Jackson wins 1985 Heisman.

ALABAMA'S WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Men's Basketball

91	Athletes In Action 76
82	Northwest Louisiana 77
89	Utah 69
91	Rider 63
99	Murray State 65
92	Mercer 49
100	Florida State (Birmingham) 89
58	@ Maryland 60

SUN BOWL TOURNAMENT

78	Nebraska 61
62	Texas El-Paso 74

71	@ Mississippi State (OT) 62
80	@ Georgia 88
83	Louisiana State (TV) 67
52	@ Kentucky 76
60	Auburn (TV) 56
92	Tennessee 79
85	@ Vanderbilt 72
67	Florida 64
Jan. 29	@ Mississippi
Feb. 1	Mississippi State
Feb. 5	Georgia
Feb. 9	@ Louisiana State
Feb. 13	Kentucky (TV)
Feb. 15	@ Auburn (TV)
Feb. 19	@ Tennessee
Feb. 22	Vanderbilt (TV)
Feb. 26	@ Florida
March 2	Mississippi
March 5-8	SEC Tournament (Lexington)

Women's Basketball

89	@ Tennessee State 81
79	Jackson State 50

NORTHWESTERN CLASSIC

78	Boston College 69
58	Northwestern 66
66	@ Marquette 40
70	@ Troy State 47
80	@ Jackson State 68
87	@ Arkansas State 67
86	Southwest Missouri State 53
59	@ Mississippi State 44
88	Stephen F. Austin 36
88	@ Alabama-Birmingham 58
85	@ Alabama-Huntsville 70
85	@ North Alabama 54
86	Auburn (OT) 87
71	@ Tennessee 89
75	@ Vanderbilt 84
78	@ David Lipscomb 50
83	Florida 62
Jan. 29	@ Mississippi
Feb. 1	Clemson
Feb. 3	Alcorn State
Feb. 5	Georgia
Feb. 8	LSU
Feb. 12	Kentucky
Feb. 17	Alabama-Birmingham
Feb. 22	Louisiana Tech
Feb. 28-March 3	SEC Tournament

Gymnastics

181.95	Missouri 174.35
183.60	@ Georgia 185.45

Penn State Invitational	
Alabama 182.60, Penn State 179.75, Michigan State 178.75, New Hampshire 170.85	

Jan. 31	Jacksonville State
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RED AND WHITE CLASSIC

Feb. 7	Illinois State, Maryland, Georgia
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Feb. 14	Florida
Feb. 22	SEC (Gainesville)
Feb. 28	@ Louisiana State
March 7	Arizona State, Florida, Nebraska, Penn State @ Arizona State @ Florida
March 15	North Carolina, Louisiana State
March 22	Auburn
March 27	NCAA Regions (Baton Rouge)
April 5	NCAA (Gainesville)
April 18-19	

Women's Swimming

Nov. 8-9	@ Florida Invitational
58	Miami 64
77	@ Virginia 63
86	Indiana 51
Dec. 6-8	USS Open @ Austin
69	Cincinnati 43
77	@ Auburn 63
89	LSU 51
60	Southern Miss 35
66	Northwest Louisiana 44
Feb. 1	Tulane @ Pensacola
Feb. 8	Arkansas
Feb. 15	@ Florida
Feb. 27-March 1	SEC @ Knoxville
March 13-15	Region III Diving @ Clemson
March 20-22	NCAA @ Fayetteville

Men's Swimming

Nov. 8-9	@ Florida Invitational
58	Miami 39
74	@ Virginia 39
Dec. 6-8	USS Open @ Austin
68	@ Kentucky 45
70	Cincinnati 43
44	@ Auburn 69
75	LSU 38
60	Southern Miss 51
67	Northwest Louisiana 44
Feb. 1	Tulane @ Pensacola
Feb. 8	Arkansas
Feb. 15	@ Florida
March 8-9	SEC Diving @ Baton Rouge
March 13-15	SEC Swimming @ Baton Rouge
March 13-15	Region III Diving @ Clemson
April 4-6	NCAA @ Indianapolis

Men's Track

Jan. 17-18	Kodak Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Jan. 25	@ LSU Invitational
Feb. 1	@ Indiana Invitational
Feb. 8	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 15	@ LSU
March 1-2	SEC @ Baton Rouge
March 14-15	NCAA @ Oklahoma City

Women's Track

Jan. 17-18	Kodak Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Jan. 25	@ LSU Invitational
Feb. 1	@ Indiana Invitational
Feb. 8	@ Florida Invitational
Feb. 15	@ LSU
March 1-2	SEC @ Baton Rouge
March 14-15	NCAA @ Oklahoma City

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ALABAMA'S SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

Baseball

Feb. 18 Alabama Christian
Feb. 21 Western Kentucky
Feb. 22 Western Kentucky
Feb. 23 Western Kentucky
Feb. 25 @ Jackson State
Feb. 26 @ Southern Miss
March 1 @ Tennessee (2)
March 2 @ Tennessee
March 4 Ferris State
March 5 Samford
March 8 Florida (2)
March 9 Florida
March 11 @ UNLV
March 12 @ UNLV
March 13 @ UNLV
March 15 @ Kentucky (2)
March 16 @ Kentucky
March 18 Kentucky
March 19 Kentucky
March 20 Middle Tennessee
March 22 LSU (2)
March 23 LSU
March 25 Jackson State
March 26 Jackson State
March 29 Shelton State
April 1 @ Alabama-Birmingham
April 2 Southern Miss
April 5 Georgia (2)
April 6 Georgia
April 7 Birmingham Barons (exhibition)
April 8-9 @ South Alabama Tourney
(South Alabama, Alabama, Auburn, Miami)

April 12 @ Vanderbilt (2)
April 13 @ Vanderbilt
April 15 North Alabama
April 16 Alabama-Birmingham
April 19 Auburn (2)
April 20 Auburn
April 26 @ Ole Miss (2)
April 27 @ Ole Miss
April 29 South Alabama
April 30 South Alabama
May 1 Auburn @ Dothan
May 3 Mississippi State (2)
May 4 Mississippi State
May 6 Auburn @ Huntsville

Men's Track

March 22 Domino Classic
March 29 @ Tallahassee
April 5 Alabama Invitational
Semotion Relays
@ Cape Girardeau, Missouri
April 12 Cajun Classic
@ Lafayette, Louisiana
April 19 @ Mississippi State Invitational
April 26 Drake Relays
@ Des Moines, Iowa
April 26 Springtime Invitational
@ Tallahassee, Florida
May 3 L.S.U. Invitational
@ Baton Rouge
May 16 & 17 SEC Championships
@ Knoxville
June 6 & 7 NCAA @ Indianapolis

Men's Tennis

Jan 24-26 SEC Indoor Meet
@ Knoxville
Miss State
@ TCU
Feb 22 @ Corpus Christi Invitational
March 3 Murray State
March 5-9 Wake Forest
March 12 Memphis State
March 15 Florida State
March 16 SW Louisiana
March 18 Louisville
March 22 Blue-Gray Tournament
March 23 @ Montgomery
March 27-30 @ Mississippi
Florida
Alabama-Birmingham
@ LSU
@ Northeast Louisiana
Vanderbilt
Kentucky
Louisiana Tech
@ Auburn
@ Auburn
@ Tennessee
@ Mississippi State
Georgia
SEC Championships
@ Auburn
NCAA
@ Athens, Georgia
April 3
April 6
April 9
April 12
April 13
April 17
April 19
April 20
April 22
April 22
April 26
May 1
May 3
May 9-11
May 16-25

Women's Tennis

Feb 22 North Florida
Feb 22 @ Birmingham (UAB)
Feb 23 @ Alabama-Birmingham
Feb 26 LSU
March 1 Mississippi
March 7 Auburn
March 8 Florida State
March 8 @ Gainesville
March 8 Florida
March 8 @ Gainesville
March 8 Santa Fe
March 8 @ Gainesville
March 9-16 Hilton Head Springfest
March 21 Tulane
March 26 @ Georgia
March 28 Kentucky
April 4-6 Lady Cougar Invitational
@ Houston
@ Tennessee
@ Vanderbilt
April 11 @ Mississippi State
April 12 Louisiana Tech
April 16 SEC Championships
April 19 @ Athens, Ga.

Men's Golf

Feb. 14-16 Florida Invitational
@ Gainesville)
Feb. 21-23 Seminole Classic
@ Tallahassee, Florida
March 15-17 Cajun Southwestern
@ Lafayette, Louisiana
March 28-30 Southeastern Invitational
@ Montgomery
April 12-13 Alabama Intercollegiate
@ Tuscaloosa
April 18-20 @ Jerry Pate Intercollegiate
@ Pensacola, Florida
April 25-27 Chris Schenkel Invitational
@ Statesboro, Georgia
May 16-18 SEC Championships
@ Florence, Alabama
June 12-16 NCAA @ Haines City, Fla.

Women's Golf

Feb 21-23 Lady Gator
@ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb 28-March 2 @ LSU Invitational
March 7-9 Hudson Invitational
@ Eufaula, Ala.
March 28-30 South Carolina Invitational
@ Columbia
April 4-6 Duke Invitational
@ Durham, NC
April 25-27 Southern Intercollegiate
@ Athens, Ga.
May 2-4 SEC Championships
@ Callaway Gardens, Ga.

Women's Track

March 22 Domino Classic
@ Tallahassee
March 29 Alabama Invitational
April 5 Semotion Relays
@ Cape Girardeau, Missouri
April 12 Cajun Classic
@ Lafayette, Louisiana
April 19 @ Mississippi State Invitational
April 26 Drake Relays
@ Des Moines, Iowa
April 26 Springtime Invitational
@ Tallahassee, Florida
May 3 L.S.U. Invitational
@ Baton Rouge
May 16 & 17 SEC Championships
@ Knoxville
June 6 & 7 NCAA @ Indianapolis



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